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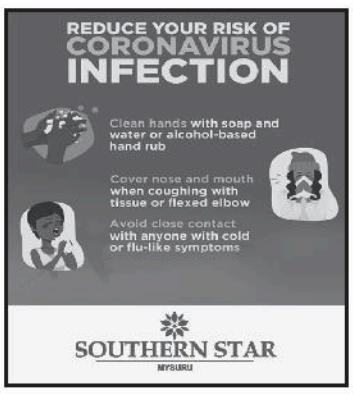
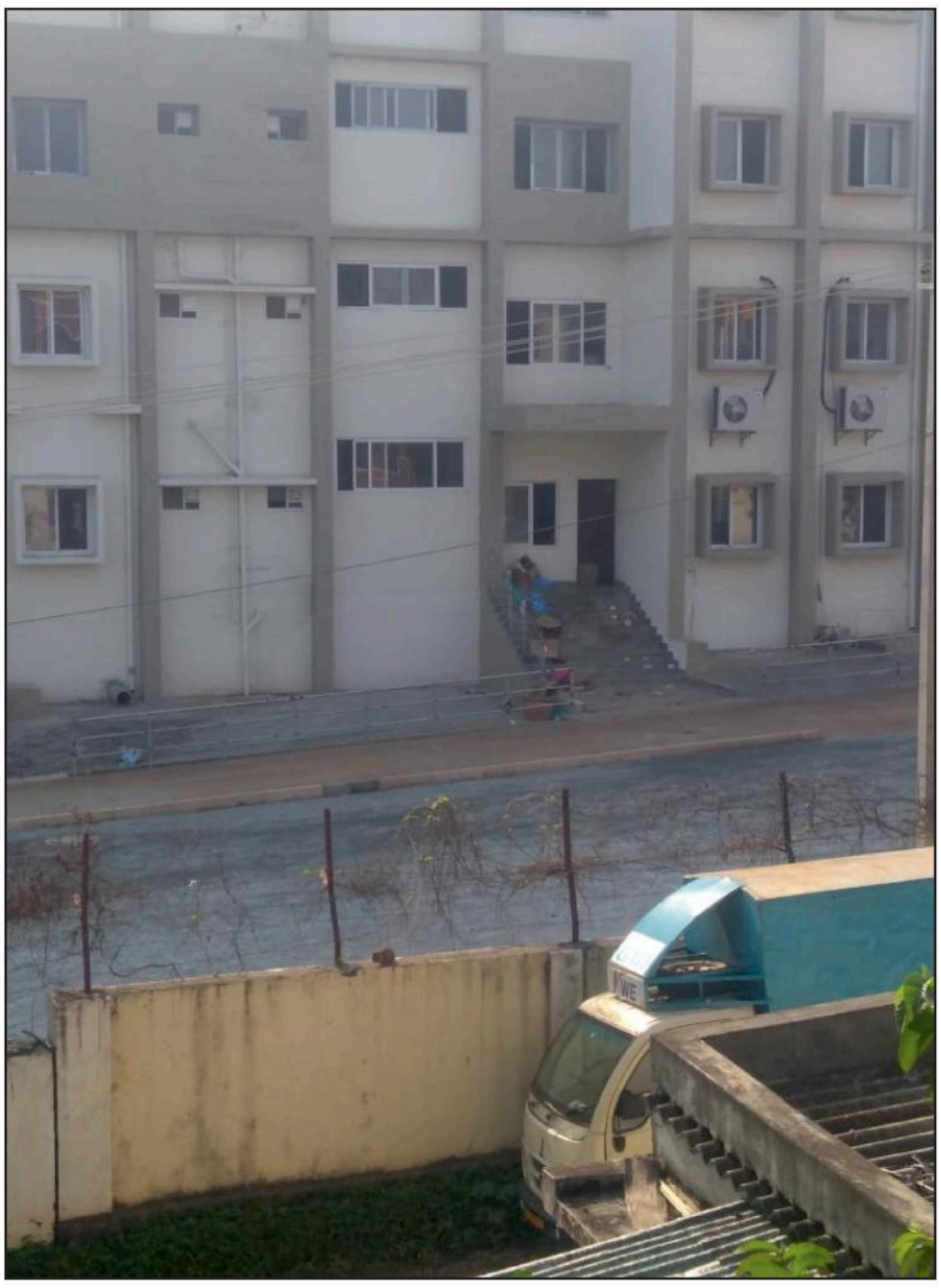

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Residents around COVID-19 Hospital scared of virus spread



Many tenants vacate houses; shift to other areas

Mysuru, Apr.14- While some doctors and medical workers in India are being ostracised from communities, evicted from their homes and forced to sleep in hospital bathrooms and on floors over fears they may be carrying Coronavirus, a new ill-informed scenario is worrying landlords and house owners around the designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road in city.

Fearing that the virus might spread to the nearby areas of the Hospital, many tenants are vacating their rented accommodations and are moving to other parts of the city. This has increased the headache of landlords and house owners who are unable to return the security deposit or the lease amount in such a short notice.

Thinking vulnerable

Many residents in the vicinity of the Hospital are worried that they may also get infected as they are vulnerable due to their close proximity to the Hospital. Soon after the outbreak, authorities set up an exclusive COVID-19 Ward at State-run K.R.Hospital with ten beds. After being brought to the Hospital, the COVID-19 suspects used to undergo blood and throat swab tests and if found positive, they were admitted at the COVID-19 Ward.

But a few days later, the District Administration thought of converting the new District Hospital on KRSRoad, which was yet to start functioning, as the designated COVID-19 Hospital, following which the couple of patients who were being treated at K.R.Hospital were shifted to the New District Hospital.

Relocation

A couple of days later, the Hospital began to see a surge in the number of patients, which has become a cause of worry for the residents living close to the Hospital. The rumoursthat those living close to the Hospital may also contract the virus has made some of the residents who live in rented or leased out accommodations to relocate elsewhere.

The hurried movement of doctors, nurses, other medical staff and ambulances in and around the Hospital and the location of the mortuary in the Hospital premises have only compounded their woes. There are many congested localities in the neighbourhood of the Hospital, which include North of Kumbarakoppal, Lokanayakanagar, Jayadevanagar, Bhyraveshwaranagar, Metagalli and Basavanagudi.

Scared of the rumours doing the rounds that residents around the Hospital are vulnerable to the deadly virus, many residents have started packing up and many people who are living in rented houses, are ready to shift to safer localities.

(See RESIDENTS on page 4)

Fake Traffic Pass: 12 two-wheelers seized

Cops ask riders to produce original passes for release of vehicles

Mysuru, Apr. 14- Even as city Police are making all efforts to prevent unnecessary movement of vehicles and people to prevent the spread of the dreaded COVID-19, some two-wheeler riders have been found moving around the city using fake traffic passes and Devaraja Police-have seized 12 two-wheelers and have asked the riders to produce original passes for the release of vehicles.

Curfew passes are offered to those who needed to work in essential sectors. However, cops grew suspicious and checked to know the authenticity of passes. Sources indicated that these fake passes are made with fake signatures and other information.

Devaraja Traffic Inspector Muniyappa and staff, who were on their regular beat yesterday morning found a lot of two-wheelers moving at K.R. Circle and decided to check them.

(See TRAFFIC on page 4)

Over 1,800 ASHA workers don the role of Corona Warriors in Mysuru

Mysuru, Apr.14 (MTY&DM)- Over1,800 ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers attached to the District Health Department have lent shoulder to the Government in the battle against Coronavirus.

ASHA workers have identified themselves as Corona warriors by visiting homes of all those under quarantine and collecting vital statistics, that is very much useful in the fight against the deadly pandemic, which has caused havoc across the globe, claiming more than one lakh lives.

Even as the people of the district are worried over the spread of the virus, ASHA workers have lent support to the District Administration in stopping the disease from hitting the community transmission stage.

While doctors, nurses and other para-medical staff are engaged in taking care of COVID-19 patients inside hospitals, ASHA workers are carrying out the outdoor task of visiting households, checking out the health of the people who are under isolation and quarantine and collecting data about persons who are symptomatic and those who were in primary and secondary contacts with the infected, while risking their own health.

ASHA workers are busy visiting households both in urban and rural areas carrying out health checks. They are also tasked with assisting the Police in ensuring that all home-quarantined persons do not come out of their homes for any reason.

A total of 1,824 ASHA workers are serving in the district, including 92 in the city, and 280 in the Mysuru taluk,320 in Nanjangud taluk,209 in K.R.Nagar taluk,253 in T.Narasipur taluk,240 in H.D.Kote taluk,192 in Periyapatna taluk and 220 in Hunsur taluk.

All ASHA workers have been assigned individual duties which chiefly includes visiting every household and collect date regarding the health condition of every member in a house. In case if any person is found symptomatic, they will alert the health department. They will also check if any outsider is staying in the house.

Also, it is their job to refer migrant workers who have returned to their homes following the lockdown to hospitals for undergoing a thorough health check-up. But the real challenge for ASHA workers come in red zones such as the ones identified in the city, several villages in Nanjangud taluk located around Jubilant Generics, the epicentre of the spread of the virus, border villages in H.D.Kote taluk and tribal hamlets across the district.

Also, several ASHA workers are finding it difficult to elicit data from residents, both in urban and rural areas. A few ASHA workers in Bengaluru were assaulted by a group of people who were angry with the authorities for ordering thorough checks.

They also carry the risk of being attacked during household visits, especially in sensitive areas. ASHA workers are engaged in making the people Corona-conscious and also in the distribution of pamphlets that explain the dos and don'ts, besides educating them on the need for compulsory maintenance of social distancing.

Their task also include advisingpeople to stay indoors for their own safety and health and to educate them on using hand sanitisers and wearing face-mask. With their task more challenging than before, several ASHA workers are found taking the help of lady nurses from nearby primary health centre and a Gram Panchayat members.

They believe that doing so will ensure their physical safety. At present, ASHA workers get a monthly honorarium of Rs.4,000 and now, the Government has announced an additional Rs,1,000 for Coronavirus duty.

Overall, it may be said that ASHA workers are getting kudos for all the work that they are doing at this crucial juncture, risking their own safety at a time when the deadly COVID-19 pandemic has caused great panic among the population.

Dr. Ambedkar remembered

Today being the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Architect of Indian Constitution, the statue of Dr. Ambedkar at the Town Hall premises in city was garlanded this morning under the aegis of Mysuru District Administration. Present on the occasion were Mysuru District in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar, MLA S.A. Ramdas, Mayor Tasneem, former MP A.H. Vishwanath, MLC R. Dharmasena, former ZP President Dr. Pushpa Amarnath, Corporator Shobha, MLA L. Nagendra, former Karnataka Exhibition Authority (KEA) Chairman B. Siddaraju, BJP District President S.D. Mahendra and former Mayor Purushotham.

Now medicines to reach doorstep of the needy

Mysuru, Apr. 14- The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) which has made facilities to reach essential commodities such as grocery, fruits and vegetables to the doorsteps have now identified 20 medical stores across the city which would deliver medicines to the doorsteps of the needy.

The MCC has made this facility to prevent people in need of medicines from coming out of their houses. Those in need of medicines have to call the identified nearest medical store, inform them about the required medicines, address of the house and the medicines would be delivered to the doorstep within 24 hours. Payment can be made through cash or online and the doctor's prescription should be shown compulsorily while receiving medicines.

MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde said that the people should compulsorily stay in their houses to prevent the spread of Coronavirus and added that medicines would be reached to the doorsteps of the needy. To facilitate residents of all 65 Wards, the medical stores have been identified.

The identified medical stores and phone numbers is as follows.

- J.L. Siddhartha Medicals (Siddharthalayout) Mob- 95353-73339;
- Rajalakshmi Medicals (near Ramaswamy Circle) Mob - 96867-44007
- Megha Medicals (Kuvempunagar near MUDA Complex) Mob - 82969-28624
- Krishna Medicals (near Maruthi Circle, N.R. Mohalla) Mob - 98802-18717
- Oxford Pharma (opposite Kamakshi Hospital) Mob - 99800-00019
- Seetharam Medicals (Sahukar Chennaiah Road) Mob - 94483-07448
- Medcom Medicals (Udayagiri) Mob-96865-04400
- Medical Store opposite Jayadeva Heart Hospital (Kumbarakoppal) Mob - 98453-53566
- Sukalpa Medicals (Gokulam) Mob - 98451-02992
- Padmavathi Medicals (Vidyaranyapuram 16th Cross) Mob - 97400-50499
- Sumanth Medicals (near Police Outpost in J.P. Nagar) Mob - 98800-11818
- Mahaveer Medicals (Nazarbad Main Road): Mob - 89514 49809
- Raman Medicals (Gayathripuram Main Road) Mob - 94485-11066
- Indore Medicals (opposite V.V. Puram Traffic Police Station, Vontikoppal) Mob - 99454-59731
- Lifecare Medicals (near SMT Hospital, Lakshmipuram) Mob - 97417-05108
- Just Cure Medicals (Hootagalli Main Road) Mob - 95385-14535
- Sri Vinayaka Medicals (Vivekananda Circle) Mob - 94485-88155
- Sri Raghavendra Medicals (Hinkal) Mob - 98804-65009
- Pharma One (Bannimantap) Mob - 96636-56244
- Pharma One (Panacea Hospital premises in Nachanahalli Palya) Mob - 90365-88034.

VOICE OF THE READER

Free supply of ration and milk indirectly increasing Corona curve

Picture for representation only.

Sir,

The free supply of ration and milk at designated points across the city is leading to a huge gathering of beneficiaries, where they do not keep safe distance from themselves and indirectly the system is supporting outbreak of COVID-19 instead of breaking the chain.

Moreover, it is practically not possible to control the crowd by Police. If they insist safe distance, the queue will run into some kilometres long. This problem can be solved to some extent by increasing the number of distribution points to 5 or 10 folds and this easy distribution can also be achieved with the help of area Corporators.

The best method is to distribute the free ration and milk at the doorstep of beneficiaries. I hope the District Administration will consider this suggestion and the public will maintain social distance for their good and also society's good.

— H.C. Mohan Shankar
Siddarthanagar
10.4.2020

No respite for travellers as train and flight services remain suspended till May 3

New Delhi, April 14- There is no respite for passengers, who are stranded and unable to proceed with their travel plans as railways and flight operations are suspended further till May 3 in order to contain the spread of COVID 19.

According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, all domestic and international scheduled airline operations shall remain suspended till 11.59 pm, May 3. Indian Railways have also extended the suspension of its passenger services till May 3, as per Indian Railways officials

It was reported that domestic flights may resume services and operate at the half capacity after the 21-day-nationwide lockdown ends on Apr. 14.In order to maintain social distancing, flights were expected to be operating at 50 per cent of their capacity with no meals on offer. Passenger queues were to be regulated keeping a gap of at least a metre between them.

Similarly, the Indian Railways was putting up measures in place to resume the services even as there is no respite for Railway passengers. The Government had earlier hinted that services will resume in a phased manner.

Meanwhile, the Railway workers are being prepared to brace up for the situation post lockdown and given instructions on how to make passengers wear masks, utilise the Arogya Setu app to check health status, thermal screening to check on infection besides encouraging social distancing on board besides other measures.

Harsha Gupta is COVID-19 Special Officer for Mysuru

Mysuru, Apr. 14 (KS)- The State Government has appointed senior IAS Officer Harsha Gupta as Special Officer COVID-19 Control Operations for Mysuru district.

Harsha Gupta will be responsible for reviewing and monitoring COVID operations in the district administration for the prevention, control and treatment for COVID-19. Following the appointment, Harsha Gupta chaired a meeting of officials at the Office of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) yesterday and collected information from them. DC Abhiram G Sankar, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, SP C.B. Ryshyanth and others were present.

Mass Linga Puja at Suttur Mutt in city

Mysuru, Apr. 14- In view of Coronavirus pandemic putting people across the globe into severe hardship, a mass Linga Puja was performed at the Mysuru Branch of Suttur Mutt at the foot of Chamundi Hill in city yeterday for the welfare of all. Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji led the Linga Puja, which was in support of the call given by Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Mahasabha and Basava Samiti. Gurukul Sadhakaru, Sevakaru joined the Puja.

CNC celebrates Edmyar-1 Kodava New Year Day

Madikeri, Apr.14- Codava National Council (CNC), which is aspiring for Codavaland Geo-Political Autonomy and ST tag for Kodava tribalism, celebrated its 26th Annual Codava (Kodava) New Year Day Edmyar-1 as per Kodava tribal almanac by ritualistic ploughing of paddy fields.

CNC President N. U. Nachappa offered prayers to Guru-Karonas at Koopadira clan and reverential prayers to Mother Earth, Sun, Moon before two bullocks named Karianna - Kulla, ploughed a few rounds in the wetlands of Koopadira clan.

To herald the unbreakable bondage of Kodava tribal world with mother soil to entire universe, CNC is determined to showcase and display the age-old folkloric cultural traits and genus of Kodava tribal ancestry. In other words, all these ancient festivities enriched the civilisation of Kodava martial tribe.

CNC also prayed for the well-being of all the people of this world that is reeling under the pandemic COVID-19. Koopadira Sabu, Koopadira Mohan Muthanna, Lt. Col. Parvathi, Kompulira Myna Purandara and Koopadira Pranam participated in the celebrations.

Due to Corona pandemic, CNC's Annual Edmyar-1 evening's torchlight (pombolak) procession at Gonikoppal, is not being celebrated today.Speaking on the occasion, Nachappa said, "All Codava folkloric festivities and rituals mirror the agro-pastoral commitment, hunting skills and warrior hood of Codava tribal folk from time immemorial which depicts that we are above the tenets of caste and religion who are living in the rustic hills, mountainous terrain in the midst of rivers and rivulets."

"We are happy that the Founding Father of the Constitution of India, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's birthday coincides with Codava New Year. We are ever grateful to Dr. Ambedkar for his yeomen contribution of accommodating space for expressing grievances of micro-minority tribes like Codava tribe," he observed.

KSRTC launches 'Sarige Sanjeevini' mobile sanitisers in Mysuru

Mysuru, Apr.14- Following the footsteps of Indian Railways that has converted 2,500 coaches into isolation wards (with 40,000 beds) to treat COVID-19 patients, KSRTC (Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation) has converted its old buses that were slated to be scrapped, into 'Sarige Sanjeevini' mobile sanitisers.

A day after KSRTC, Bengaluru, launched mobile sanitisers, the Mysuru Division too inaugurated similar services. KSRTC Security and Vigilance Director Dr. Ramnivas Sepat inaugurated the mobile sanitiser buses at Bannimantap depot in Mysuru.

These buses have been remodelled by removing seats and fixing sprayers to the roof, similar to disinfection tunnels set up at various places including markets and hospitals, to sprinkle Sodium Hypochlorite solution as disinfectant. As of now, the facility will be used by mechanics, drivers, conductors and other staff who are working at KSRTC depots. After the lockdown is lifted and once the KSRTC services are resumed, people using the public transportation will be compulsorily made to use these sanitiser buses before starting their journey.

Speaking after the launch, Sepat said, "KSRTC has spent Rs.20,000 on each bus and arranged two mobile sanitisers in Mysuru, one each at city and rural divisions. Each bus is fitted with 200 litre capacity water tank and 12 sprinklers."

"As of now, we are using this facility for our staff working at depots. If District Administration and Police put forth proposals for more such mobile sanitisers, we are ready to provide the service," he added.

KSRTC Rural Divisional Controller R. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Controller Nagaraju, Civil Engineer Nagaraja Murthy, Divisional Mechanical Engineers (DMEs) Mahadevappa and Venkatesh Murthy and others were present.

Fake Traffic Pass: 12 two-wheelers seized

(Continued from page 1)

During the checking, which was conducted between 9 am and 1 pm, Devaraja Traffic Police stopped two-wheelers and on inspecting the traffic passes produced by the riders, the Cops found that they were fake as the riders had produced the passes issued by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC).

Other passes were of Police and the Health Department without official seal and signature. 12 two-wheelers were seized and the Police have asked the riders whose two-wheelers were seized to produce original passes for the release of their vehicles. Police said that though facilities to purchase essential commodities are made in every locality in city, still many people were found moving around citing reasons such as to purchase vegetables and groceries.

If the riders fail to produce the original passes, the vehicles would be seized till the lockdown ends and then the issue would be brought to the notice of the City Police Commissioner, who would take action in this regard. Sources also said that as a lot of vehicles are found moving around the city, checking would be conducted henceforth at Narasimharaja, Krishnaraja, Siddarathanagar and V.V. Puram Traffic Police limits and added that the checking of vehicles is being conducted to prevent unnecessary movement of vehicles to control the spread of Coronavirus.

Residents around COVID-19 Hospital

(Continued from page 1)

In the past one week, several tenants have vacated their houses, while some others have begun asking their owners to return the advance money or the security deposit. But the owners, taken by surprise over the sudden exit of their tenants, are insisting their tenants to stay at least till the expiry of the rent or lease agreement as they are unable to return the advance deposit because of the lockdown.

Some other house owners are saying that they can return the advance money only after the lockdown regulations are relaxed which in some cases has turned into a verbal duel between the house owners and tenants.

Waste dump: Meanwhile residents of Lokanayakanagar are all the more worried as the Hospital waste which include used masks, hand gloves and other protective wears are being dumped in dustbins beside the compound wall of the Hospital, with the locality located very close to backside compound wall of the hospital. As of now, 18 families residing in Lokanayakanagar have shifted to Hebbal and other areas and more are ready to follow.

Officials clarify: District authorities have, however, dismissed the chances of the virus spreading to residential areas around the Hospital. Officials told Star of Mysore that there are no chances of the virus spreading from the Hospital.

Officials insisted that strict protocol is being followed while disposing of Personal Protective equipment like gloves, masks and protective suits. They are not carelessly dumped but are destroyed scientifically.

INS appeals for stimulus package for print media amid COVID-19 lockdown

New Delhi, Apr. 14- The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) has appealed to the Centre for an urgent stimulus package for the print industry amid the crisis it is facing with the outbreak of COVID-19.

INS President Shailesh Gupta shot off a letter to Information and Broadcasting Secretary Ravi Mittal saying the newspaper industry is facing an unprecedented crisis with no advertising revenue, huge input costs and import duty newsprint contributing to recession.

As the Coronavirus lockdown was imposed on Mar. 25, Gupta said newspapers have cut down their pages to unprecedented levels with many merging weekend supplements to the main editions. "Despite these measures, newspapers are losing money every single day," he wrote.

He demanded the total removal of 5 percent customs duty on newsprint, two year tax holiday for newspaper establishments, 50 percent increase in advertisement rate of Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) and 100 percent increase in budget spend for print media and immediate settlement of payment towards all outstanding bills of advertising from BOC.

Gupta also wanted the Centre to advise the State Governments to settle pending advertisements. Detailing the crisis in the industry, he said while consumers pay in full and cover the costs for essential goods like food, milk and groceries, they cover only a fraction of the cost of newspapers.

The gap is normally made up through advertisements which have drastically gone down, as industries and manufacturers have stopped advertising due to shutting of activities.

"Many small and medium newspapers have already suspended publishing and other newspapers are facing serious challenges and if they collapse, it is bound to affect the domestic newsprint manufacturing industry too. Such a situation will have a ripple effect thus affecting large number of employees, their families as well as allied industries, printing presses, distribution mechanism, newspaper vendors and delivery boys, he said. Gupta said the Indian newspaper industry is putting in their best efforts at personal risk in disseminating news to ensure readers get essential information day after day in these challenging times.

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number: 011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	3,555
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	1,539
Persons isolated in hospital	:	38
Persons completed 14-day isolation	:	1,978
Total samples tested	:	997
Samples found negative	:	949
Total active positive cases	:	48
Persons cured / discharged	:	10
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	258
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	9
Total positive cases in India	:	8,988
Death toll so far in India	:	339

(NOTE: FIGURES TILL 2 PM)

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